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FACT SHEET

FINAL RULE AMENDMENTS TO REDUCE TOXIC AIR POLLUTANTS FROM STORAGE TANKS USED BY FOUR CATEGORIES OF INDUSTRIAL SOURCES

TODAY'S ACTION

- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is today issuing final amendments to a rule that reduces toxic air pollutant emissions from four categories of industrial sources that emit toxic air pollutants. Because it refers to similar processes in several types of industrial sources, this rule is referred to as the "Generic MACT". The Clean Air Act requires EPA to reduce toxic air pollutants by developing standards that require the application of maximum achievable control technology (MACT) to reduce air emissions.

- This final amendment corrects discrepancies between the language in the Generic MACT rule as promulgated in June 1999 and the Agency's intent. This action changes the definition of "storage vessel" to include two types of tanks used in chemical processing (bottom receivers and surge control tanks). This action also excludes these types of tanks from the definition of "equipment". Bottom receivers and surge control tanks that are part of the "front-end process" for the production of acetal resins (a type of plastic that softens when heated then hardens again when cooled used in a variety of industrial and consumer applications) are not affected by this amendment.

- EPA developed today's rule in close partnership with major stakeholders including industry representatives and representatives of those states with affected production facilities.

WHAT ARE THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS?

- EPA estimates that these amendments will result in little if any emission reductions. However, these amendments will ensure that the emission controls remain in place and are operated properly.

- There are four major facilities presently operating that will be affected by these final amendments.

BACKGROUND

- Toxic air pollutants, or air toxics, are those compounds known or suspected of causing cancer or other serious health effects.

- Under the Clean Air Act, EPA is required to regulate sources of 188 listed air toxics. On July 16, 1992, EPA published a list of industry groups (known as source categories) that emit one or more of these air toxics. The Clean Air Act requires EPA to develop regulations for listed categories of "major" sources (those that emit 10 tons/year or more of a listed pollutant or 25 tons/year or more of a combination of a listed pollutant).

WHAT ARE THE PRODUCTION PROCESSES AFFECTED BY THE FINAL AMENDMENT?

Acetal Resin Production

- Acetal resins are thermoplastics used in industrial applications, plumbing and irrigation, automotive plastic parts, consumer articles, appliances, and other plastic parts. The primary pollutants emitted from acetal resin production are formaldehyde and methanol.

Acrylic And Modacrylic Fiber Production

- Acrylic and modacrylic fibers are synthetic fibers composed of acrylonitrile and lesser fractions of copolymers. These fibers are used in two main industries : as a substitute for wool fibers in the textile industry manufacturing carpet, socks, sweaters, etc.; and as a carbon fiber precursor for the sporting goods industry (tennis rackets, golf clubs, etc.) and the aviation industry.

Hydrogen Fluoride Production

- Hydrogen fluoride production is the production and recovery of hydrogen fluoride by reacting calcium fluoride with sulfuric acid. The final rule does not cover processes that produce gaseous hydrogen fluoride for direct reaction with hydrated aluminum to form aluminum fluoride because hydrogen fluoride is not recovered as an intermediate or final product prior to reacting with the hydrated aluminum. Hydrogen fluoride is used in the production of chlorofluorocarbons and hydrochlorofluorocarbons, as well as in the hydrogen fluoride alkylation process at refineries and the production of aluminum fluoride.

Polycarbonate Production

- Polycarbonates are produced mainly by reacting bisphenol with phosgene. Methylene chloride is the solvent typically used in the process. Polycarbonates have a variety of uses, including compact disks, automotive parts, and electrical components.

HOW MUCH WILL THE FINAL AMENDMENTS COST?

- EPA estimates that the combined cost for the 10 affected facilities within the four industries is negligible.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

- Interested parties can download the final rule from EPA's web site on the Internet under "recent actions" at the following address: (http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg). For further information about the final requirements, contact the following persons at EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards: for the acetal resins source category, contact Mr. John M. Schaefer at (919) 541-0296; for the acrylic and modacrylic fiber source category, contact Mr. Anthony P. Wayne at (919) 541-5439; for the hydrogen fluoride source category, contact Mr. Rick Colyer at (919) 541-5262; for the polycarbonate source category, contact Mr. Mark Morris at (919) 541-5416.

- EPA's Office of Air and Radiation's homepage on the Internet contains a wide range of information on the air toxics program, as well as many other air pollution programs and issues. The Office of Air and Radiation's home page address is: (http://www.epa.gov/oar/).